



While treatments like angioplasty and stenting are effective for coronary artery disease, they are not as successful in addressing the longer blockages produced by PAD. For that reason, doctors have historically used open bypass surgery to treat the long blockages associated with PAD. Though considered to be a more reliable and durable technique for PAD than angioplasty or stenting, Ansari said many patients are hesitant to undergo open bypass surgery because it requires opening the leg and replacing the blocked portion of the artery with an arterial graft.

As an alternative to open bypass surgery, Ansari and TTP have started offering the DETOUR™ procedure, a newly developed method for treating PAD. DETOUR™ is a minimally invasive percutaneous (i.e., through the skin) femoropopliteal bypass procedure that utilizes small perforations in the skin to bypass long-segment blockages in the superficial femoral artery.

During the procedure, Ansari makes one small perforation near the top of the leg opposite from the leg requiring treatment, and a second in the patient's calf. He then guides the DETOUR System through the perforations to the area where the artery is blocked and establishes connections between the artery and vein. One connection is made above the blockage and one below the blockage.

Through these connections, Ansari constructs a long tube by connecting two or three stent grafts. The stent graft tube is started in the artery above the blockage, connects to the vein next to the artery and then returns to the artery below the blockage. This new pathway re-directs oxygen-rich blood around the diseased part of the artery and restores blood flow to the patient's lower leg and foot.

Recovery time is minimal with the DETOUR™ procedure and Will D. said pain was not an issue. Eight days after undergoing treatment he was mowing his lawn.

“Right now I probably just walk and do whatever I want to,” Will D. added. “I’ve been out in the yard working and it’s really not bothering me; there’s no soreness, no hurting in my leg.”

The DETOUR™